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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 768
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Wesley Henning and the 1999-2000 Ridgeway High School boys' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AA State Tournament.

WHEREAS, the 1999-2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AA season will be forever remembered because of the hard work, excellent play, fierce determination and unparalleled success of the overlooked, underrated and underdog Ridgeway High School boys' basketball team, whose admirable "never give up" attitude resulted in them winning the coveted state championship; and

WHEREAS, picked by *The Commercial Appeal* to finish third in their district, Ridgeway fought hard and compiled a fine 10-2 regular season record in District 15 A play; and

WHEREAS, the Roadrunners were not favored to win their District Tournament but did so to the great delight of their schoolmates and their fans; and

WHEREAS, Ridgeway was likewise not favored to win the Region 8 A Tournament but did so with great individual performances sparked by outstanding team play; and

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WHEREAS, this great team of destiny was not favored to win the West Sectional, but did so by defeating Trezevant 56-54 and B. T. Washington 64-53; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of the classic TSSAA Class AA State Tournament, Ridgeway played methodically and patiently, chose its shots wisely, shot an incredible 65%, and won, besting Knoxville Fulton 42-35; and

WHEREAS, utilizing a strategy that proved to be very effective, the Roadrunners adroitly held the ball, took high percentage shots and crushed fifth-ranked David Lipscomb, 41-34, in the State Tournament semifinal round; and

WHEREAS, once again the underdog in the state finals, the unranked Ridgeway squad faced the herculean task of beating top-ranked, traditional power Austin-East, which was making its second straight appearance in the state title match and had only lost twice in the previous 37 games; this inspirational team was undaunted and shocked the “experts” with a stunning 66-57 State Tournament championship victory; and

WHEREAS, by posting a string of twenty-three straight wins to conclude this memorable season, this tremendously talented team compiled a rare overall record of 30-6, an exemplary winning percentage of .833; and

WHEREAS, the Roadrunners were youthful, in terms of age, having only three seniors, but played like seasoned veterans on the hardwood; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded **Head Coach Wesley Henning**, the Roadrunners' mentor, has taught each of his players to believe in themselves, to pursue unflinchingly, what to most would have seemed an impossible dream, to unselfishly make the necessary sacrifices to win, to handle success modestly and to be good citizens and role models both on the court and off. His valuable **Assistant Coach** is **Mike Moore**; and

WHEREAS, team honorees included: jumping junior guard **Donzel Crenshaw**, who was chosen the State Tournament's Most Valuable Player, and was selected to the All-Regional Tournament, and All-District teams; senior sensation forward **Adrian Henning**, who was named

to the All-State Tournament, All-State First Team, All-Regional Tournament teams, and was honored as a Memphis Prep Top Five City Finalist, and as District 15 AA Player of the Year; and super sophomore forward **Derek Byars**, who was selected to the All-State Tournament, All-Regional Tournament, and All-District teams; and

WHEREAS, the additional members of the team were: seniors, guard **Stephen Bradford** and guard **David Kaplan**; juniors, guard **Robert Brown**, forward **Shaun Mitchell**, forward **Josef McLeod**, and forward **Ronnie Barton**; sophomores, guard **Cory Brown**, center **Kariton Fields** and center **Willie Henderson**; and freshman guard **Yuai Banks**; each of these remarkable young men made a significant contribution to the success of the squad; and

WHEREAS, scorekeeper **Ms. Wynn Wright** and managers **Andre Graham** and **Jason Jackson** performed their duties with dedication and diligence; and

WHEREAS, **Principal Hal Russell**, **Assistant Principals Jim McCutchen**, **Tommie McCarter**, and **David Werner**; and **Athletic Director John Cooley** have been very supportive of the team; and

WHEREAS, this great team is richly deserving of the special accolades of this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Wesley Henning and the 1999-2000 Ridgeway High School boys' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AA State Tournament and completing an outstanding season and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.